

Wm L. Garrison

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Boston, Oct. 18, 1857.

My dear S. J. May:

In view of the earthquake shock which all the business operations of the country have received, and the absorption of all minds in the deep pecuniary embarrassments of the times, — and, therefore, the palpable inexpediency of attempting to hold a Convention of the Free States (as hitherto contemplated) at Cleveland, on the 28th and 29th inst., — Mr. Higginson, Mr. Phillips, and myself, after grave and serious consideration, have assumed the responsibility of postponing our projected Northern Convention until a more auspicious period — at the same time, letting an informal convention be held at Cleveland at the time specified, of such as can make it



convenient to be present, so as not to create too great a local disappointment. All our Agents will be there, and no doubt they will make it a stirring meeting. But, in the present paralyzed state of things, it would be absurd to try to secure any thing like a representation from the several States, and so we shall go for postponing the Northern Convention. I am the more reconciled to this, because Phillips could not have gone to it, if it had been held this month.

Theodore Parker, Phillips, Higginson, &c., will send letters to the meeting at Cleveland, expressive of their views on the Disunion question, which will help to mitigate the disappointment that will be felt by our Ohio friends at their non-attendance. I shall also send a letter; and I hope you will do the same, in case you shall conclude not to go to Cleveland, after what I have written.



When you were in Boston, you very kindly suggested your readiness to write a good word for my son Wendell to Pres. Walker, at Cambridge, in order to secure for him (if practicable) a certain pecuniary benefit of scholarship, to enable him to meet his expenses. I do not know on what conditions the allowance is granted, but it would certainly be a great relief to me if it could be obtained. Wendell has gone through the ordeal of an examination triumphantly - ranking the second scholar out of ninety-five classmates, and coming within 2-7ths of a mark of taking the lead of all. I mention this, as it may possibly have something to do with his getting the desired aid.

Perhaps Pres. Walker may suppose that I have the means to carry Wendell through, without difficulty; but I wish you to let him know that it is only by friendly and charitable assistance



that I have ventured to allow him to go to Cambridge. Pecuniarily, I am always "struggling against wind and tide," and can sympathize with you in often finding myself "in a tight place." It costs something, in more senses than one, to be notorious for "fanaticism" or philanthropy.

After a wasting sickness of nine months' duration, (more than six of which were passed under my roof,) my aunt Charlotte saw "the last of earth" on the 2d inst. I rejoice that I was able to give her every attention, and to do all in my power to relieve and save her; but her illness has thrown upon me a heavy pecuniary load, - some hundreds of dollars additional, - and this makes me the more desirous in regard to Wendell's case. Will you be so kind as to write to Pres. Walker about him?

Yours, ever,  
Joseph,  
Live to your dear wife, "Aunt Charlotte," and all your household.  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

✓ Your daughter Charlotte called upon us a day or two since. She is now at Hingham. I believe, with the Haptons, but we shall have a visit from her.